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**Los Angeles Times**

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# Our Dishonest President

By THE TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD ([HTTP://WWW.LATIMES.COM/LA-BIO-TIMES-EDITORIAL-BOARD-STAFF.HTML](http://www.latimes.com/la-bio-times-editorial-board-staff.html))

APRIL 2, 2017

**I**t was no secret during the campaign that Donald Trump was a narcissist and a demagogue who used fear and dishonesty to appeal to the worst in American voters. The Times

called him unprepared and unsuited (http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-hillary-endorsement-20160923-snap-story.html) for the job he was seeking, and said his election would be a “catastrophe.”

Still, nothing prepared us for the magnitude of this train wreck. Like millions of other Americans, we clung to a slim hope that the new president would turn out to be all noise and bluster, or that the people around him in the White House would act as a check on his worst instincts, or that he would be sobered and transformed by the awesome responsibilities of office.

Instead, seventy-some days in — and with about 1,400 to go before his term is completed — it is increasingly clear that those hopes were misplaced.

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In a matter of weeks, President Trump has taken dozens of real-life

steps that, if they are not reversed, will rip families apart, foul rivers and pollute the air, intensify the calamitous effects of climate change and profoundly weaken the system of American public education for all.

His attempt to de-insure millions of people who had finally received healthcare coverage and, along the way, enact a massive transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich has been put on hold for the moment. But he is proceeding with his efforts to defang the government's regulatory agencies and bloat the Pentagon's budget even as he supposedly retreats from the global stage.

“

It is impossible to know where his presidency will lead or how much damage he will do to our nation.

”



and reverse years of slow but steady gains by marginalized or impoverished Americans. But, chilling as they are, these radically wrongheaded policy choices are not, in fact, the most frightening aspect of the Trump presidency.

What is most worrisome about Trump is Trump himself. He is a man so unpredictable, so reckless, so petulant, so full of blind self-regard, so untethered to reality that it is impossible to know where his presidency will lead or how much damage he will do to our nation. His obsession with his own fame, wealth and success, his determination to vanquish enemies real and imagined, his craving for adulation — these traits were, of course, at the very heart of his scorched-earth outsider campaign; indeed, some of them helped get him elected. But in a real presidency in which he wields unimaginable power, they are nothing short of disastrous.

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President Ted Cruz or a President Marco Rubio), they become far more dangerous in the hands of this imprudent and erratic man. Many Republicans, for instance, support tighter border security and a tougher response to illegal immigration, but Trump's cockamamie border wall, his impracticable campaign promise to deport all 11 million people living in the country illegally and his blithe disregard for the effect of such proposals on the U.S. relationship with Mexico turn a very bad policy into an appalling one.

In the days ahead, The Times editorial board will look more closely at the new president, with a special attention to three troubling traits:

**1** **Trump's shocking lack of respect** for those fundamental rules and institutions on which our government is based. Since Jan. 20, he has repeatedly disparaged and challenged those entities that have threatened his agenda, stoking public distrust of essential institutions in a way that undermines faith in American democracy. He has questioned the qualifications of judges and the integrity of their decisions, rather than acknowledging that even the president must



## 2

**His utter lack of regard for truth.** Whether it is the easily disprovable boasts about the size of his inauguration crowd or his unsubstantiated assertion that Barack Obama bugged Trump Tower, the new

president regularly muddies the waters of fact and fiction. It’s difficult to know whether he actually can’t distinguish the real from the unreal — or whether he intentionally conflates the two to befuddle voters, deflect criticism and undermine the very idea of objective truth.

Whatever the explanation, he is encouraging Americans to reject facts, to disrespect science, documents, nonpartisanship and the mainstream media — and instead to simply take positions on the basis of ideology and preconceived notions. This is a recipe for a divided country in which differences grow deeper and rational compromise becomes impossible.



**3** ideas. Again, it is not clear whether he believes them or merely uses them. But to cling to disproven “alternative” facts; to retweet racists; to make unverifiable or false statements about rigged elections and fraudulent voters; to buy into discredited conspiracy theories first floated on fringe websites and in supermarket tabloids — these are all of a piece with the Barack Obama birther claptrap that Trump was peddling years ago and which brought him to political prominence. It is deeply alarming that a president would lend the credibility of his office to ideas that have been rightly rejected by politicians from both major political parties.

Where will this end? Will Trump moderate his crazier campaign positions as time passes? Or will he provoke confrontation with Iran, North Korea or China, or disobey a judge’s order or order a soldier to violate the Constitution? Or, alternately, will the system itself — the Constitution, the courts, the permanent bureaucracy, the Congress, the Democrats, the marchers in the streets — protect us from him as he alienates more and more allies at home and abroad, steps on his own message and creates chaos at the expense of his ability to accomplish his goals? Already, Trump’s job approval rating has been hovering in



advisor, Michael Flynn, offered to cooperate last week with congressional investigators looking into the connection between the Russian government and the Trump campaign.

“  
Those who oppose the new president’s reckless and heartless agenda must make their voices heard.  
”

On Inauguration Day, we wrote on this page (<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-trump-inauguration-20170119-story.html>) that it was not yet time to declare a state of “wholesale panic” or to call for blanket “non-cooperation” with the Trump administration. Despite plenty of dispiriting signals, that is still our view. The role of the rational opposition is to stand up for the rule of law, the electoral process, the peaceful transfer of power and the role of institutions; we should not underestimate the resiliency of a system in which laws are greater than individuals and voters are as





PART I Our Dishonest President (/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/) PART II Why Trump Lies (/projects/la-ed-why-trump-lies/) powerful as presidents. This nation survived Andrew Jackson and Richard Nixon. It survived slavery. It survived devastating wars. Most likely, it will survive again.

But if it is to do so, those who oppose the new president's reckless and heartless agenda must make their voices heard. Protesters must raise their banners. Voters must turn out for elections. Members of Congress — including and especially Republicans — must find the political courage to stand up to Trump. Courts must safeguard the Constitution. State legislators must pass laws to protect their citizens and their policies from federal meddling. All of us who are in the business of holding leaders accountable must redouble our efforts to defend the truth from his cynical assaults.

The United States is not a perfect country, and it has a great distance to go before it fully achieves its goals of liberty and equality. But preserving what works and defending the rules and values on which democracy depends are a shared responsibility. Everybody has a role to play in this drama.

This is the first in a series.

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## The Problem with Trump



PART I

Our Dishonest President

## *A series of Times editorials*

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Why Trump Lies



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Our Dishonest President

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whether we like it or not, the politics of the United States affects us all. And looking in from the UK with horrified apprehension , one can only wish it wasn't so. But it is.

Here, between thinkers who recognise the unfolding horror story in your great country, the conversation wakes most mornings with: Now what's he done? It ceased to b...

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#2 **desertbob93535** • 3,457 points

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In other news, President "Tangerine Traitor" Trump headed off to Liberty University today to snag an "honorary law degree." Gee, that degree must be worth as much as one from Trump U, wouldn't you think? TREMENDOUS value....big BIG value....BIGLY value. WILL SOMEONE PLEASE DROP THE HAMMER ON TRUMP AND END THIS LONG NATIONAL NIGHTMARE?

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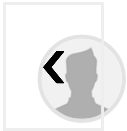
#3 **desertbob93535** • 2,046 points



Follow-up. Frumpy's approval rating in the Gallup 3 day rolling average tracking poll, only one that polls presidential approval on a daily basis, shows him at an average of 39.5% approval, 54.2% disapproval. Yesterday, he took a two point hit to 38%, but bounced back to 41% today. For comparison, Richard Nixon, at the height of the Watergate scandal and hearings, had an approval of 35%. Frumpy's getting VERY close to impeachment territory.

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You argue trivia and ignore the scope of your stubborn misplaced devotion. The Clintons are Globalists and since at least '92 have promoted Globalization. The assurances from Crooked Hillary I believe are the following: "My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders,..." Clinton told Banco Itau, a Brazilian bank, on May 16, 2013. National Multi-Housing Council in April 2013 "So, you need both a public and a private position." She called TPP the "Gold standard", her position to this day.

The 2016 presidential election saw a wave of populist sentiment in the campaigns of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, with both candidates running on anti-establishment platforms in the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively. Both campaigns appeal to economic protectionism and have criticized free trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Their movements coincide with a similar trend of populism in Europe." The HRC camp favors globalization. A story in the Washington Post said "20 years ago globalization was pitched as a strategy that would raise all boats in poor and rich countries...", but in fact does not provide any enrichment for the deteriorating middle class. Americans. It is deflating the middle class of Americans and surrendering our right of self determination. Globalization is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies, and governments of different nations, a process driven by international agreements and regulation. The final blow to the sovereign democratic republic we won and defended with our lives Hillary would sellout for cash in her pocket. The Globalist establishment's MSM owns Hillary and does not publicly promote their position in any recognizable form for obvious reasons. Better for them to keep you preoccupied with Flynn and Comey or You might rebel.

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Draining the Washington Swamp and the LA Times Cesspool is not an easy task for our ELECTED President Donald Trump. When the Times called him unprepared and unsuited for the job he was seeking, and said his election would be a "catastrophe." I immediately thought of Barak Hussein Obama.

The current Liberal and Democrat Agenda of Sanctuary, Open Borders, Abortion and a host of other nefarious policies clearly is in a self destruct mode and will suffer the consequences in future elections.

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It's clear -- Hillary just wasn't pure enough for so-called liberals and/or conservatives, so instead the country got Trump for POTUS. Trump Admin 1st said Comey



was fired because the AG's office recommended it cause Comey insulted crooked Hillary. Yeah right. That was classic pot calling the kettle dirty. Then during an interview with **Repubs** registered Lester Hot, Trump admitted he always wanted to fire Comey and just did it by throwing his spokespersons & Pence under the bus. **Repubs** and at the same time admitted obstruction of justice and a dishonest president. Senate & House go soft. (/projects/la-ed-why-trump-fires/)

Recall during the campaign, Trump said "I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters." So to Trump, obstruction of justice isn't a high crime or even a misdemeanor. Is there any doubt had Obama asked Comey about the Hillary email investigation or fired Comey in July or August 2016 for going rogue re the email investigation, immediately House & Senate Repubs would've accused Obama of objection of justice, called for Obama's impeachment and started impeachment proceedings?

In a little over 100 days, Trump fired the Acting AG, National Security Adviser, FBI Head -- as if he is still in The Apprentice TV show. Trump rightly is compared to Tricky Dick Nixon and the Saturday Night Massacre. Moreover, after firing Comey for doing his job, Trump has some high level Russians visit him in the Oval Office. No doubt these Russians are spies, and Trump wouldn't allow American media to take photos -- just the Russians. Americans had to view the Russian taken photos on the Tass website. So to recap, Trump fires the chief investigator into the Russian thing, invites Russians into the Oval Office the next day, kicks out the American media but allow Russian state run photographers to take photos in the Oval Office and confesses to obstruction of justice on live TV. But Hillary sent some emails from the wrong laptop and Repubs in Congress and elsewhere went ballistic.

Go Figure!

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**boneil5** — Reader in reply to [LJP-305](#) “It's clear -- Hillary just was... more » • 3 hour(s) ago ([http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/?#track=lat\\_digitalads\\_our-dishonest-president\\_content-promotion\\_outbrain\\_content-marketing\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_#sot\\_5d4a29008b71ee456acd275088be6bc1909c1479](http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/?#track=lat_digitalads_our-dishonest-president_content-promotion_outbrain_content-marketing_____#sot_5d4a29008b71ee456acd275088be6bc1909c1479))

You have no ability to discern fact from fiction with your statement that "Hillary sent some emails from the wrong laptop and Repubs in Congress and elsewhere went ballistic." Are you totally blinded to the truth? Hillary violated federal law by having an unsecured laptop that WAS easily hacked by who knows how many of our enemies across the World, and now we have no idea who knows what about our nation's classified information thanks to her careless generosity. She was required to turn in her server and instead she destroyed evidence on it. She was caught in repeated lies about both this issue as well as Benghazi, which cost the lives of some very brave Americans. I won't even go into the inappropriateness of the Clinton Foundation or how her husband inappropriately got on Loretta Lynch's plane for an hour just before Hillary's hearing; something that was also illegal but which the liberal media and Democrats in charge decided to ignore. You are far too biased and thus incapable of accurately criticizing our new President.

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**Faucon Noir** — Reader • 7 hour(s) ago ([http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/?#track=lat\\_digitalads\\_our-dishonest-president\\_content-promotion\\_outbrain\\_content-marketing\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_#sot\\_f6c27c8c1722b7f1012fa4db41251bdc8b1c34a0](http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/?#track=lat_digitalads_our-dishonest-president_content-promotion_outbrain_content-marketing_____#sot_f6c27c8c1722b7f1012fa4db41251bdc8b1c34a0))

This rag is incredible beyond words! I am a real progressive liberal, but I am so glad that the true values of liberalism are now under the protection of (irony) our new President and the reluctant GOP. This editorial series is another evidence of the cultural Marxism you dish out, knowingly or unknowingly, being another voice puppet for the NWO, the UN Agenda 2030 and the Financial Elite. You promote the worst form of fascism. The psychological manipulation of consciousness you practice will work on your target audience as long as no one opposes your discourse. God forbid if they do, then the litany of insults, profanities (politically incorrect) etc. inevitably follows. It is funny that the so called "love" your followers exalt in seems so much like pure vitriolic hate when it comes to President Trump! I profoundly disliked a great many past presidents, I protested against the Viet Nam war (march on the Pentagon) participated in the Civil Rights



movement, but I have never witnessed, nor NEVER expressed such demonic levels of spurious hatred shown by your base of "regressive Liberals" against one man. Your mendacity disgust me.

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Can you hear me clapping? You absolutely nailed the truth and deserve a standing ovation.

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Someone's been skipping their meds.....



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Hey desert bob, it may be you who is skipping your meds. Faucon's comments were amazing and accurate.

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**apoly110** — Reader • 8 hour(s) ago ([http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/?#track=lat\\_digitalads\\_our-dishonest-president\\_content-promotion\\_outbrain\\_content-marketing\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_#sot\\_2b099b5eebb70ba9170314f54852ce638306c48c](http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-ed-our-dishonest-president/?#track=lat_digitalads_our-dishonest-president_content-promotion_outbrain_content-marketing_____#sot_2b099b5eebb70ba9170314f54852ce638306c48c))

Nobody is breaking up families. The illegals must take their anchor bambinos with them. What kind of mother would leave her kid behind? And we surely don't want to take care of them!

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